



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service, Science and Technology
Microbiological Data Program
Commodity Fact Sheet

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- **PRODUCT:** Alfalfa Sprouts (SR)
- **ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS:** Fresh 100% alfalfa sprouts. If 100% alfalfa sprouts are not available, a mixture of alfalfa and clover sprouts (or a mixture of alfalfa and other sprouts) is acceptable. NOTE: Be sure to note on SIF: ingredients (Variety Field), expiration date if listed (Comments Field), and type of container (Commodity Type Field—Full Clamshell, Growing Tray, Part Clamshell + Plastic Wrap, Plastic Bag, Waxed Carton, or Other).
- **UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS:** Other sprouts (alone, without Alfalfa Sprouts)
- **AVAILABILITY:** Year around.
- **SAMPLE SIZE:** 3 ounces or 85 grams (minimum) per lab-sample. Assure that there are 3 lab-samples for each site-sample. Larger bags or plastic containers of sprouts (for example, 3- or 5-lb bags) may NOT be opened to select a smaller sample size. An unopened bag/container must represent one lab-sample, regardless of its size.
- **PACKAGING AND SHIPPING:** Sprouts should be considered a delicate commodity, so care must be taken during packaging and shipping. *Samples must remain properly cooled throughout transit time.* Desired temperatures 32-41° F (0-5° C). The light-weight sprouts can easily be crushed, so use caution if packing with other (heavier) commodities.
- **ETHYLENE PRODUCER/SENSITIVE:** Low producer. Low-medium sensitivity.

NOTE: If alfalfa sprouts cannot be found at primary or alternate sites, they may be collected from a “proxy” site (retail store, local producer); however, this practice is not strongly encouraged and should be performed only when other sampling options fail. When collected at a proxy site, packages of alfalfa sprouts must be collected in a rear storage area where the consumer does not normally have access. *Before collection day arrives, it is advantageous to call ahead to check on availability.*

This fact sheet is to be used in conjunction with all applicable MDP Standard Operating Procedures [http:// www.ams.usda.gov/science/MPO/SOPs.htm](http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/MPO/SOPs.htm)

